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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659.817	09/11/2003	David Neff	MLCZ 2 00106	5262
20	90 02/02/2005		EXAMINER	
Scott A. McC	ollister	KASTLER, SCOTT R		
Fay, Sharpe, Fagan, Minnich &McKee, LLP 1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Cleveland OH			1742	

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

			me				
	Application No.	Applicant(s)	11				
•	10/659,817	NEFF, DAVID					
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
	Scott Kastler	1742					
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet with the c	correspondence ad	dress				
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Educations of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1 actives the state of the may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1 actives the state of the s	36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim y within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) day will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from y cause the application to become ABANDONE	nely filed s will be considered timel the mailing date of this c	ly. ommunication.				
Status							
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on							
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) ⊠ This	s action is non-final.						
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowa	nce except for formal matters, pro	osecution as to the	e merits is				
closed in accordance with the practice under	Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 4	53 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims							
4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application							
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.							
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.							
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-10</u> is/are rejected.							
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.  8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.							
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and	or election requirement.						
Application Papers							
9) The specification is objected to by the Examin	er	_					
10)⊠ The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2003 is/are: a)⊠ accepted or b)□ objected to by the Examiner.							
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).							
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.							
	xaminer. Note the attached Office	e Action of form r	10-132.				
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119							
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreig a) All b) Some * c) None of:	n priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a	a)-(d) or (f).					
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.							
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No							
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage							
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).							
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.							
Attachmant/a							

ı١	M	Notice of	References	Cited	(PTO-892)

| Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
| Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
| Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8-24-2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Claim Objections

Claims 2, 7 and 8 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The above claims do not properly further limit independent apparatus claims 1 or 4 because the above claims recite only the manner in which the claimed apparatus (the filter) is to be employed (where the filter is to be located). It has been well settled that the manner or method of use of an apparatus cannot be relied upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See MPEP 2114 and *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stankiewicz. Stankiewicz teaches an apparatus (43) for filtering molten metal in molten metal transport conduits, including dosing tubes, (see col. 3 lines 24-27 for example) including a mounting portion (11) which can be fit around and mounted to a dosing tube through it's annular portions (13) the filter body (21) including a cylindrical body (29) and planar surface (27, 31) attached to, and substantially covering the flat end (15) of the mounting portion (11), thereby defining a closed filtering surface area (enclosed body), where the filter is advantageously made

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of ceramic particles, including silicon carbide or aluminum oxide, bonded with an aluminum alloy resistant glass binder (see col. 7 lines 60-65 for example), thereby showing all aspects of the above claims.

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stankiewicz. As applied to claim 4 above, Stankiewicz shows all aspects of the above claims except that the cylindrical portion of the filter have a beveled end to which the planar surface is attached. However, the filter apparatus of Stankiewicz operates in substantially the same manner with substantially similar stated results as the instant filter configurations. It has been well settled that where the applied prior art teaches a claimed apparatus or component (in the instant case, the filter), absent any demonstrated new or unexpected results arising therefrom, motivation to alter the shape or configuration of the apparatus or component already taught by the applied prior art, would have been a modification obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. See MPEP 2144.04 IV B, and *In re Dailey*, 149 USPQ 47. In the instant case, since no new or unexpected result has yet been shown to arise from the use of a filter configuration including a beveled end as instantly claimed, motivation to alter the filter shape of the filter (21) of Stankiewicz, to any desired shape or configuration, including the shape recited

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in instant claim 6, would have been a modification obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

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### Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Each of Tanuma et al and Outten et al are also cited as further examples of prior art casting filters for molten metal filtering.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <a href="http://pair-direct.uspto.gov">http://pair-direct.uspto.gov</a>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Scott Kastler Primary Examiner Art Unit 1742

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